

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus comprising a body (2) defining an open throat (11), and at least one jaw (12,13) having a concave side for engaging a pipe the concave side having two opposed ends characterised in that said at least one jaw (12,13) further comprises a jaw portion (14a,15a) extending behind said concave side, said jaw portion hingedly mounted to said body between said two opposed ends about which said at least one jaw (12,13) is rotatable with respect to the body to engage a pipe.
2. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the body (2) is generally horseshoe shaped and said open throat (11) is defined by said horseshoe shaped housing (2).
3. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein said at least one jaw (12,13) is arranged at least partly rotatable within the throat (11).
4. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the at least one jaw (12,13) is hingedly mounted to said body (2) on a hinge pin (16,17).
5. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said hinge pin (16,17) is removable from said body.
6. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 5, wherein said pin (16,17) is removably fixed to said body (2) using a locking pin (26,27).
7. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising a further jaw (12,13).
8. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said at least one jaw (12,13) is inhibited from rotation by a locking member (46,49).
9. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 7 and 8, wherein said locking member (46,49) is arranged between the jaws

(16,17) to inhibit rotation of both jaws (12,13).

10. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, wherein said locking member (46,49) is retractable.

11. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 8 or 10, wherein 5 the locking member (46,49) is arranged on at least one spring (47,48).

12. An apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 8 to 11, wherein the locking member (46,49) comprises a handle (58) by which the locking member is retractable.

10 13. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, the body (2) further comprising a seat (38,39) for the at least one jaw (12,13) to abut when a pipe is engaged.

14. An apparatus as claimed in any of Claim 8 to 13, wherein the locking member (46,49) comprises a safety 15 device (55,56,57) for ensuring the locking member (46) locks the at least one jaw (12,13) when engaged with a pipe.

15. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said safety device (55,56,57) comprise an indicator on said locking member (46,49) and an indicator in the body (2), wherein in use, alignment of said holes indicates that the locking member (46,49) is in the correct locking position.

20 16. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 15, further comprising a safety locking pin (55), wherein said indicator on said locking member (46,49) is a hole and the indicator on said body (2) is a hole, wherein in use, the holes align and the safety locking pin (55) is inserted therethrough.

30 17. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising a resilient means (71,72) arranged between the body and the at least one jaw wherein the at

least one jaw (12,13) is inhibited from opening by said resilient means (71,72).

18. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising a resilient means (71,72) arranged

5 between the body and the at least one jaw (12,13) wherein the at least one jaw (12,13) is inhibited from closing by said resilient means (71,72).

19. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 17 and 18, wherein the resilient means (71,72) is arranged in an over-centre

10 mechanism.

20. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the over-centre mechanism comprises a spring guide (65,66,67,68) and a pin (69,70) and said resilient means comprises a spring (71,72), the spring guide (65,66,67,68) rotatable about the pin (69,70), the spring compressible in the spring guide (65,66,67,68) upon movement of the at least one jaw (12,13).

21. An apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, further comprising at least one handle (6,7) for carrying and applying the apparatus to a pipe.

22. An elevator comprising the apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim.

23. A method for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim, the method comprising the steps of lowering the throat of the apparatus over a pipe, the at least one jaw rotating to engage the pipe.

24. A drilling rig comprising a platform (111) having a wellcentre (118) and at least one preparation opening (120,121) characterised in that said platform further comprises a rotatable tower (123) on which pipe can be rotated about.

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25. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the tower further comprises a carriage (124) arranged on said tower (123) to move therealong.
26. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 25, wherein said carriage (124) comprises an arm (133,161,162).
27. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said at least one preparation hole (120,121) is spaced from said tower (124) an equal distance to the length of said arm (133,161,162).
28. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 24, 25 or 26 further comprising a wireline (140) for hoisting a pipe.
29. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said wireline also hoists the carriage (124).
30. A drilling rig as claimed in Claim 28 or 29, further comprising a winch for winding said wireline (140).
31. A drilling rig as claimed in any of Claim 28 to 30, further comprising an elevator arranged on the end of said wireline (140).
32. A method for handling pipe, the method comprising the steps of picking up pipe on the end of a wireline and rotating the pipe on a rotatable tower to align with a preparation opening.